

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /079 W  
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R 241537Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GW, IR, UR

SUBJECT: GERMAN/IRANIAN NATURAL GAS PROJECT

REF: BONN 5792

1. ACCORDING TO AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY SOURCE THE CURRENT TIMETABLE FOR THE PROPOSED GERMAN/IRANIAN NATURAL GAS DEAL ENVISAGES COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. RUHRGAS WILL CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS IN MOSCOW WITH THE SOVIETS BEGINNING OCTOBER 29. RUHRGAS AND OTHER GERMAN FIRMS WILL THEN CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS IN IRAN IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THREE-SIDED TALKS IN ESSEN IN THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER.

2. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR DELIVERY OF 10 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS ANNUALLY TO THE GERMAN  
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BORDER, ONE HALF OF WHICH IS DESTINED FOR FRANCE AND

ITALY. IT REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER THE GAS WILL BE PIPED FROM IRAN TO GERMANY OR WHETHER THERE WILL BE A SWAP OF IRANIAN GAS FOR RUSSIAN GAS. IN EITHER CASE THE RUSSIANS WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORTING THE GAS AND THE GERMANS WILL PAY THEM IN CASH NOT GAS FOR THIS SERVICE.

3. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PRICE OF THE GAS CONTINUE. RUHRGAS HAS INDICATED A CEILING PRICE FOR GAS DELIVERED AT THE GERMAN BORDER ABOVE WHICH THE GAS WOULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE ON THE EUROPEAN MARKET. IT HAS TOLD THE IRANIANS AND RUSSIANS TO WORK IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES HOW THEY DIVIDE UP THIS SUM TO INCLUDE PAYMENT FOR THE GAS AS WELL AS TRANSPORTATION COSTS. HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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